

Serial No. 09/744,829
Atty. Doc. No. P002004

REMARKS

Claims 18, and 20 have been canceled. Claims 13-17, 19, 21-24 have been amended. Claims 25-27 have been added. Thus, claims 13-17, 19, 21-27 are presented for examination. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Response To Objections:

The Examiner objected claim 23 due to line 2 having a spelling error. This claim has been amended to correct the spelling error. Thus, Applicant respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the objection to the claim.

Allowance of Claims 21-23:

In the Office Action the Examiner indicated that claims 21-24 contained patentable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. Claim 21 has been rewritten as an independent claim to include the limitations of original claims 13, 15, 16, 18, and 20.

In view of the amendment to claim 21, as well as claims 22-24 which depend from claim 21, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 21-24 are in condition for allowance and request allowance of claims 21-24.

Response To Rejections Under Section 103:

Claims 13-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a), the Examiner contending these claims are obvious over Riggan, U.S Patent No. 6,490,252 in view of Farris et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,574,216.

Independent claim 13 has been amended to include the patentable subject mater of

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claim 21 but not all of the limitations of claim 21. Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claim 13 and claims 14-17, and 19 which depend from claim 22.

New Claims:


Dependent claims 25-27 further define the scope of the invention. In view of the foregoing remarks regarding independent claim 13, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 25-27 are patentably distinguishable over the cited references and prior art made of record. Applicant thus respectfully requests allowance of claims 25-27.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejections and timely pass the application to allowance. Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this paper. The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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